

states, the standing armed forces of potential adversaries, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction portend increasing challenges for the future. Our Army will continue to serve the central role in the Nation's response to these challenges.

Our Army, the world's most capable and respected ground force, is in the midst of an unparalleled transformation as it prepares for the new challenges of the next century and a different world. The information age is already bringing rapid changes in the conduct of warfare. Future forces will be prepared to conduct quick, decisive, highly sophisticated operations anywhere, anytime. America's 21st century Army will integrate emerging information technologies with sound doctrine, flexible organizations, and soldiers of character and commitment to make our Nation's land force more versatile, deployable, lethal, and survivable.

Our Army was ready at Lexington and our Army is ready today. Our Army will be ready to fight and win our Nation's call to service at home and abroad. Whenever the time, wherever the place, whatever the mission, American can count on her Army.

CONDEMNING CHURCH BURNINGS

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 1996

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong condemnation of a tragic trend—the vicious burning of African-American churches in the South.

On average, two African-American churches have been burned, under suspicious circumstances, each month over the past 1½ years.

I rise to voice my outrage and condemnation of these church arsons. I also speak out on behalf of the constituents of the Third District of Connecticut, who are also deeply troubled about the burnings of African-American churches in the South. We share the national sadness over the loss of these historic and sacred spaces. As towns and neighborhoods begin the process of healing and re-building, it is imperative that we send a long, clear, and firm message to the perpetrators of these sick crimes—Americans will not tolerate bigotry or hate crimes. The perpetrators must and will be punished.

History teaches us that we all have a great stake in the battle against forces of hatred. This quote about totalitarian oppression illustrates the point:

In Germany they came first for the Communists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist. Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist. Then they came for the Catholics, and I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant. Then they came for me, and by that time no one was left to speak up. (Martin Niemöller, attributed)

African-American leaders and members of the clergy in my district have spoken out locally to express support for their brothers and sisters in need in the South. These fires could easily occur in any region of the country. Today it is in Southern neighborhoods, tomorrow it could be in yours, or mine. We must

speak louder than the voices of hate. Those voices encourage violence and have resulted in the destruction of churches built on faith, hope and love.

The Reverend Lester McCorn, pastor of the Varick AME Zion Church and Auxiliary Bishop Theodore Brooks of the Beulah Heights First Pentecostal Church in New Haven in my district spoke out earlier this week.

Rev. McCorn said: "This is in on way an isolated incident limited to the South. It is old fashioned hatred."

Bishop Brooks said:

The South might be just the beginning . . . Anything can happen at any time, anywhere, at any point. While racism may be less hidden in the South it's just as prevalent and dangerous in the North.

So I'm proudly calling on others to come together and to speak out against the voices and actions of hatred in this country.

A TRIBUTE TO LECH WALESA

HON. MARTIN R. HOKE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 1996

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, the great twilight struggle against the incredible evil of communism produced some of history's most extraordinary people. But if you had to choose the three people who played the biggest role in relegating communism to the dustbin of history it would have to be Ronald Reagan, Pope John Paul II, and a shipyard worker from Gdansk named Lech Walesa—the three men Time Magazine dubbed "The Holly Alliance."

The centerpiece of the operation to free Eastern Europe from the chains of communism was Solidarity, the workers' union founded by Lech Walesa. Everything else flowed from that. Solidarity was the weapons that the Pope and President Reagan nurtured and protected and eventually used to help bring about communism's collapse, first in Poland, then in the rest of Eastern Europe.

None of what was accomplished, however, could have happened without Lech Walesa. It was his bravery, his skill, his dedication, and his love for his country and its people that showed the way. The world owes a debt of gratitude to this common man with uncommon valor.

Last week a ceremony was held in Washington both to honor this hero, as well as to celebrate the introduction of the NATO Expansion Act, a bill that will bring Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic into NATO. In many ways this bill is the culmination of all that Mr. Walesa has worked for and I am proud not only to be an original cosponsor of this bill, but also that I had a hand in drafting some of the language. I urge the Congress to pass this important bill and the President to sign it.

I would now like to submit a copy of Mr. Walesa's inspiring remarks for the RECORD.

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE LECH WALESA,
WASHINGTON, JUNE 4, 1996

Mr. Speaker, Members of Congress, Ladies and Gentleman, Dear Friends.

First and above all, I would like to say how very grateful I am for being invited here today. Being here again brings back cherished memories of that day six years ago, when, as we were all witnessing the end of the communist empire and of the Cold War,

I had the honor of addressing the joint session of the United States Congress. It was one of those rare moments when we all felt that history was being made. There are indeed very few such great landmarks to one's lifetime.

But this was not the first time Poles and Americans shared such moments. It was two centuries ago when, by a historical coincidence, our ancestors both in America and in Poland were simultaneously experiencing momentous changes in the lives of their nations. America had just won her independence and in 1790 ratified a democratic constitution. A year later and an ocean away on May 3rd, the Polish Parliament also passed its own constitution, a grand design for modern political reform.

There were striking similarities between them. The basic concept of the American constitution, that the source of governmental power stems from the will of the people, was also embodied in the Polish one. Both stated the same basic objective: liberty and general welfare of the people. The Polish reformers were spiritually at home with the American Founding Fathers; they shared the same fundamental ideals. America was viewed as a model; it was certainly not an accident that Polish Reformer-King Stanislaw August had put a bust of George Washington in his study at the Warsaw Castle. And it was certainly not accidental that Polish volunteers participated in the American Revolution. At this point I must express my most sincere gratitude for the recent joint resolution of the United States Congress commemorating the two hundred fifth anniversary of the adoption of Poland's first constitution.

But while the America envisaged by the Founding Fathers has become a great democracy and still governs itself by the same constitution, Poland has spent most of the last two centuries relentlessly struggling to achieve among the nations of the earth that which your Declaration of Independence called "a separate and equal station to which laws of nature and Nature's God entitle them". I am not a historian, as you know, but sometimes I think that, perhaps, apart from the right ideals and stubborn resolve, nations need a bit of luck too. For instance, I would have liked Fortune to have placed the Poland of the 1791 Constitution somewhere on the map of North America and not in the center of Europe, between autocratic and imperial Russia and Prussia.

It was exactly 200 years ago that President George Washington was retiring. Having led a victorious fight against the imperial tyranny of Britain and ensured America's independence, he could withdraw into the peace and tranquillity of his beloved Mount Vernon. He cautioned that free people must always remain wary of potential threats, but he was convinced that what he called America's "detached and distant position" offered hope that the republic would endure. As you well know, my country, inhabiting the heart of Europe, unfortunately had not the luxury of such a "distant and detached position" over the past two centuries. The tough experiences of our history do not make a retirement in true peace of mind a very likely possibility for any leader. Perhaps that is why Poles love liberty as one loves a bride but Americans love her more as a grandmother.

But I believe that, although we cannot affect Fortune, we can and should help it. From 1989, liberty in Central Europe had been given a new, historic chance, a chance preceded by a very, very long and bitter struggle, and, as such, deserving the needed nourishment of peace and security. May I point out that Poland is today the fastest growing economy in Europe a remarkable evidence of fruits born of regained liberty.